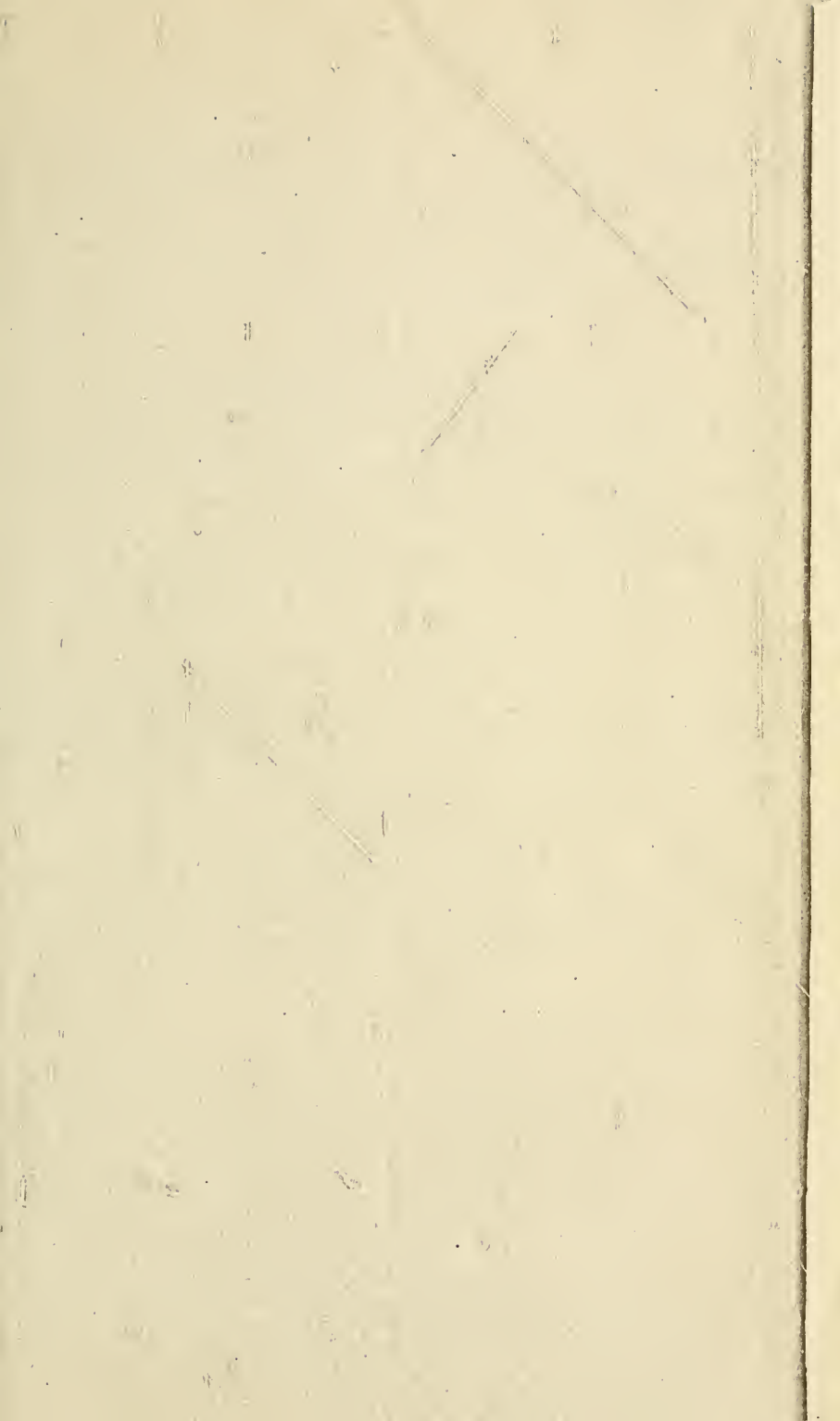


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PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
ALABAMA BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION,

AT ITS TWENTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY,  
AT MARION, PERRY COUNTY;

NOVEMBER 22—25, 1845.

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The Convention met in the Baptist Church, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

The Introductory Sermon was delivered by the Rev. ALEXANDER TRAVIS, from 1st Cor. 15; 58. "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

The President, J. HARTWELL, taking the chair, prayer was offered by brother A. G. McCRAW.

The hour being late, a motion to adjourn to 3 o'clock, P. M. was carried.

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SATURDAY, 3 o'clock, P. M.

The Convention assembled in the Presbyterian Church, which had been kindly placed at the service of the body. Prayer by brother J. J. Sessions.

The names of Delegates being called for, representatives from the following Associations, Churches, and Missionary and Benevolent Societies presented their credentials, and took their seats.

Bethel Association—J. TALBERT, A. A. CONNELLA, L. B. Lane, E. Woodfin.

Salem Association—G. G. McLENDON, J. G. Shorter.

Bethlehem Association—A. TRAVIS, J. J. SESSIONS, P. STOUT, S. C. JOHNSON.

Alabama Association—J. D. MOODIE, A. T. M. HANDY, James Bell, C. H.

Cleveland, J. A. Norwood, A. Holmes, W. B. Haralson, C. M. Cochran.

Union Association—J. C. FOSTER, J. MORRIS.

Tuskaloosa Association—WM. S. MEEK.

Coosa River Association—S. HENDERSON.

Canaan Association—R. WOOD, E. WOOD.

Cahawba Association—A. G. McCRAW, D. P. BESTOR, J. H. DE VOTIE, J. S. FORD, B. HODGES, E. GEORGE, THOMAS CHILTON, Wm. Muckle, A. W. Jackson, Jas. Head.

Liberty Association—F. CALLOWAY, L. PARKS, S. Lanier.

Siloam Church—J. HARTWELL, M. P. JEWETT, L. Y. Tarrant, S. S. Sherman, W. N. Wyatt.

Benton Church—I. Lyon, J. W. Mundy.

Rock West Church—J. C. JONES, J. A. Cook.

Centre Ridge Church—R. P. Lide, J. M. Lide, W. A. Kirven.

Shiloh Church—C. H. Cleveland.

Union-town Church—A. A. CONNELLA, Jas. Woodfin, sen., E. Woodfin;

W. W. Moseley.

Liberty Church—W. Nunnelee.



Spring Hill Church—M. B. CLEMENT, L. B. Lane, N. Smith, B. W. Reed.  
 Montgomery Church—H. TALBIRD.  
 Shady Grove Church—A. Andrews.  
 Oakmulgee Church—W. G. Hale, L. Butler, A. P. Johnson, G. Hopper.  
 Mt. Eden Church—J. Kynerd, J. Holley.  
 Mt. Pleasant Church—A. D. BLACKWOOD, D. Kynerd, P. W. Stedman, W. B. Cureton.

Grant's Creek Missionary Society—JOHN C. FOSTER, John L. S. Foster, Allen Woolley.

Collirene Benevolent Sewing Society—Green Rives, W. B. Haralson.

Centre Ridge Female Benevolent Society—R. P. Lide.

Marion Baptist Female Benevolent Society—THOMAS CHILTON, S. LINDSLEY, A. VANHOUSE, *M. Bishop*, Wm. Hornbuckle.

Judson Female Institute Missionary Society—D. W. Chase.

*Life Members*—E. D. King, W. W. Mason, John Lockhart, S. R. Pate, J. F. Cocke.

☞ Ordained Ministers in SMALL CAPITALS; Licensed, in *italics*.

Organized by the election of Officers:

J. HARTWELL, President.

E. D. KING,

THOMAS CHILTON,

Vice Presidents

J. H. DE VOTIE, Cor. Sec.

M. P. JEWETT, Rec. Sec.

WM. N. WYATT, Treasurer.

The customary invitation being extended, the Rev. James Davis presented himself as a Correspondent from the Georgia Baptist Convention, and brother S. Pate appeared as a Corresponding Member from the Choctaw Association.

Under a provision of the Constitution, making liberal donors to the objects of the Convention, Life Members, it was

*Resolved*, That all subscribers, (being members of Baptist Churches in good standing) to the amount of One Hundred Dollars and upwards, to the Theological and the Literary Funds raised, or to be raised, by the Convention, shall be Life Members of this body.

Under this resolution the following brethren took their seats: W. W. Mason, John Lockhart, S. Pate, and J. F. Cocke.

The chair announced the following standing committees:

*On Preaching*—King, De Votie, R. P. Lide, Wyatt.

*On Domestic Missions*—Sessions, Callaway, Travis.

*On Foreign Missions*—Talbird, Henderson, Mason.

*On Nominations*—Cleveland, Chilton, McCraw.

*On Education*—Foster, Chilton, Pate, Mason, Shorter.

*On Sabbath Schools*—Handy, Rives, Collins.

*On Finance*—Haralson, Cochran, Lane.

*On the state of Religion*—Henderson, Parks, Moodie.

*On Temperance*—Stout, Rives, Holmes.

*On Periodicals*—Jones, Henderson, Lindsley.

*On Arrangement of Business*—Jewett, Chilton, J. C. Foster.

The committee on Preaching reported:

At the Baptist Church, 11 o'clock, A. M., preaching by brother H. Talbird, to deliver the Missionary Sermon; at 2 o'clock, P. M., by brother

Sessions, preceding Communion; at night, by brother Connella, before the Alabama Bible Society. The Presbyterian and Methodist pastors having kindly invited the Convention to supply their pulpits, at 11 o'clock, brother Henderson preached at the Church of the former, and brother McCraw at the latter. At night, brethren Handy and Callaway officiated in those Churches.

Adjourned until 9 o'clock Monday morning.

Prayer by brother Henderson.

#### THE LORD'S DAY.

Preaching was had in the various Churches, agreeably to the arrangement above stated. After the Missionary Sermon, a collection was taken, amounting to \$61.

On Sabbath evening, the Lord's Supper was celebrated by a large number of communicants, nearly filling the Baptist Church. Brethren Holman, Travis, Davis, and Callaway, officiated at the table.

After the sermon before the Bible Society, interesting statements were made by brother Travis, relative to the destitution of the Bible in the Southern parts of the State. Similar statements were made by brother De Votie, relative to Perry county. Subsequently, subscriptions and moneys were secured to the amount of \$150.

#### MONDAY MORNING, 9 O'CLOCK.

Prayer by brother Holman.

Voted, That the Convention meet, daily, at 9 o'clock, A. M., and 2 o'clock, P. M., and adjourn at 12 M. and 5 P. M.

The Annual Report of the Trustees of Howard College was read, and referred to the committee on Education. [Appendix A.]

The Annual Report of the Trustees of the Judson Female Institute was presented, and referred as above. [Appendix B.]

The special committee on the financial condition of the Judson Female Institute, appointed last year, reported: referred to the committee on Education.

Brother P. Stout was appointed Assistant Secretary.

The following brethren were appointed a special committee on our relations with the Northern Baptist Boards: Talbird, Travis, McCraw, Shorter, J. L. S. Foster, King, Henderson and Jewett.

The Rev. Russell Holman was introduced to the Convention, and submitted a statement relative to the Baptist Church in New-Orleans. Whereupon, the following minute was unanimously adopted:

*Resolved*, That this Convention has heard with deep interest, the statements of brother Holman, respecting the establishment of a Baptist Church in New-Orleans, and does most cordially recommend the enterprise to the confidence and liberality of the Churches.

The Report on Domestic Missions was adopted, and ordered to be printed. [Appendix C.]

The committee on Nominations reported a list of Directors: adopted, and the nominees elected.

Adjourned. Prayer by brother Parks.

MONDAY, 2 O'CLOCK, P. M.

Prayer by brother McCraw.

The accounts of the Treasurer were presented, with the accompanying vouchers; referred to brethren Lockhart and McCraw, as an auditing committee. [Appendix D.]

The order of the day being the condition of the Colored Population, members were invited to express their views, when a large number availed themselves of the invitation. The statements made indicated a deep interest in the subject. There were various points of agreement in the remarks of all who spoke. The blacks are generally anxious to receive religious instruction. They are likely to be the most profited by meetings established for themselves alone. Masters universally, even when not pious, are decidedly favorable to the oral instruction of their servants in religious truth. Several members who are acquainted with Jones' Catechism, spoke of it as a valuable auxiliary in giving oral instruction to the colored population.

At the conclusion of the remarks on the above subject, the following Preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, this body feels an interest, which is unabated, in the moral and religious instruction of the slave population, and believing that it is the duty of all Christians to aid in efforts to impart such instruction,—Therefore,

*Resolved*, That the Ministers and Members composing this Convention, will henceforth use all reasonable diligence in their power, to improve the moral and religious condition of the slaves within their congregations and families, and that the same subject be recommended to Ministers and Christians throughout the entire South.

*Resolved*, That a committee of five be appointed to prepare or procure a suitable Catechism, to be used in the oral religious instruction of the colored population of our country.

Committee: Talbird, Chambliss, Moodie, Handy and Gunn.

Adjourned. Prayer by brother Callaway.

TUESDAY, 9 O'CLOCK, A. M.

Prayer by brother Morris.

L. Y. Tarrant declining to act as a Trustee of Howard College, John Lockhart was elected in his place.

A donation of two hundred dollars was received from our venerable brother, Wm. Jenkins, sen. of Talladega, to be applied to the distribution of the Scriptures and the support of Missionaries, in China.

The committee on Foreign Missions presented a Report: adopted, and to be printed. [Appendix E.]

The Report on Periodicals was received, and ordered to be inserted in the Minutes. [Appendix F.]

The Roll was called and corrected.

On motion,

*Resolved*, That if any vacancies occur in the Board of Trustees of Howard College, during the recess of this Convention, the Board of Directors shall fill such vacancies, under the provisions of the amended charter of the College.

The Auditing committee made a Report: adopted.

The Annual Report of the Board of Directors was adopted, and ordered to be spread upon the Minutes. [Appendix G.]

The committee on Sabbath Schools presented a Report ; adopted, and to be printed. [Appendix H.]

The committee on Documents reported: Report adopted, and to be printed. [Appendix I.]

The Report on Finance was adopted ; to appear in the Minutes. [Appendix J.]

The Report of the committee on Education was adopted, and ordered to be printed. [Appendix K.]

The committee on Temperance made a Report ; adopted, and ordered to be printed. [Appendix L.]

The Report on the state of Religion was presented ; adopted, and to be printed. [Appendix M.]

The committee on Northern Relations read their Report ; adopted, and to be printed. [Appendix N.]

The Rev. D. P. Bestor presented to the Convention several valuable articles of Chemical and Philosophical Apparatus, for the use of the Judson Female Institute.

On motion,

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Convention are respectfully tendered to brother Bestor, for his valuable and generous donation.

Adjourned. Prayer by brother De Votie.

TUESDAY, 2 O'CLOCK, P. M.

Prayer by brother Clement.

Brethren Stout, McCraw and Mason were appointed a committee on Claims.

Appointed Delegates to Corresponding bodies :

*To the Southern Baptist Convention*—B. Matly, J. C. Jones, W. W. Mason, J. H. De Votie, A. T. M. Handy, D. P. Bestor, H. Talbird, J. Hartwell, A. Travis, J. G. Shorter, T. Chilton, A. G. McCraw, E. D. King, B. Hodges, G. W. Gunn.

*To the Georgia Baptist State Convention*—W. W. Mason, W. B. Jones, W. B. Haralson, D. P. Bestor, S. Henderson, J. D. Moodie, F. Callaway, J. C. Jones, J. G. Shorter.

*To the Tennessee General Association*—S. Lindsley, S. Henderson.

*To the Mississippi State Convention*—B. Hodges, J. C. Foster, S. Pate.

*To the Choctaw Association*—D. P. Bestor, M. B. Clement, L. B. Lane.

The following Preamble and Resolutions were presented by brother Shorter, and unanimously adopted :

Whereas, the venerable and beloved ADONIRAM JUDSON, D. D., Missionary to Burmah, is permitted in the Providence of God, to revisit his native land: And whereas, we believe him to be eminently worthy of the fraternal affection of the whole Baptist family in the United States. Therefore,

*Resolved*, That the members of this Convention do cordially unite, in offering to the Great Head of the Church, their sincere and devout thanks, in view of that gracious Providence which has preserved this honored servant of God, amid extraordinary perils and sufferings, has enabled him to accomplish so much for the cause of Christ in Burmah, and has now brought him to our shores.



*Resolved*, That the President forward to Dr. Judson a copy of this preamble and resolutions; and on behalf of this Convention, affectionately invite him to visit our Churches during the approaching winter.

Voted unanimously, to hold the next meeting of the Convention, at MARION, on Saturday before the *third* Sabbath in November, 1846.

The following resolutions, introduced by Professor Sherman, were adopted with entire unanimity.

*Resolved*, That this Convention heartily approve of the efforts now making by benevolent individuals, to establish a School for the Instruction of the Blind, in this State.

*Resolved*, That the same be recommended to the favorable regard and the patronage of the Baptists of Alabama, and to the Legislature of our State.

Brethren Hartwell, De Votie and Jewett were re-appointed to examine Beneficiaries of the Howard.

Ordered the Treasurer to pay to the various bodies, for which funds have been sent up to this Convention, the amounts in hand.

The Convention took a recess till 8 o'clock, to give time for the meeting of the Alabama Baptist Bible Society.

Prayer by brother Talbird.

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#### NIGHT SESSION.

The Convention was occupied till a very late hour in discussing the propriety of paying the expenses of Delegates to the Southern Baptist Convention, out of the funds in the possession of the body. It was agreed that Delegates should be appointed, and that their expenses ought not to be borne by themselves; but there was a general reluctance to meet the expenses out of moneys sent up to this body for specified purposes. All plans suggested, for extricating the Convention from the difficulties that embarrassed the subject, having failed to meet the approbation of the majority, it was finally voted to appoint fifteen Delegates to the meeting at Richmond, and leave to the Churches the question of expenses.

Voted, That the Recording Secretary be requested to prepare the Minutes for the press, and superintend the printing of the same; for which the sum of \$80 shall be appropriated, such number of copies being issued as may be printed for that sum.

Voted, That the Alabama Baptist Bible Society may print their Minutes in connection with those of this body.

Voted, That the committee to examine Beneficiaries of Howard College be authorized to make necessary appropriations for their expenses, under the sanction of the Board of Directors.

Voted, That the thanks of the Convention be respectfully tendered to the Pastors and Members of the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches, for the proffer of their houses of worship, and of their pulpits, during the session.

The usual expressions of thanks were voted to the brethren and citizens of Marion, and to the President and Secretary of the Convention.

Adjourned *sine die*. Remarks and prayer by the President.

J. HARTWELL, *President*.

M. P. JEWETT, *Rec. Sec'y*.

## OFFICERS OF THE CONVENTION.

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|                         |                    |                                      |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| J. HARTWELL, President. |                    | M. P. JEWETT, Recording Secretary.   |
| E. D. KING,             | } Vice-Presidents. | J. H. DE VOTIE, Corresponding Sec'y. |
| THO'S CHILTON,          |                    | WM. N. WYATT, Treasurer.             |

### OTHER DIRECTORS.

L. Y. TARRANT, G. EVERETT, L. C. TUTT, B. HODGES, P. STOUT, L. GOREE,  
WM. HORNBUCKLE, D. LEE, E. GEORGE.

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### TRUSTEES OF HOWARD COLLEGE.

|                 |               |                |                |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| J. H. DE VOTIE, | J. F. COCKE,  | A. TRAVIS,     | L. GOREE,      |
| E. D. KING,     | A. G. McCRAW, | JOHN LOCKHART, | H. TALBIRD,    |
| L. B. LANE,     | W. N. WYATT,  | W. HORNBUCKLE, | J. G. SHORTER. |
| W. W. MASON,    | D. P. BESTOR, | E. FAGAN,      |                |

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## APPENDIX.

[A]

### *Report of the Trustees of Howard College.*

The Board of Trustees of Howard College, in conformity with the duty assigned them, submit the following as their Annual Report.

Though the past year has been, in many respects, one of unprecedented trial and anxiety, in the operations of your Board, still they have reason to acknowledge the hand of God, in controlling the affairs of the Institution committed to their charge.

Since the last session of the Convention, the Institution has been prospered in the number of its students, and in its efforts to gain and merit the confidence of the public. Its success, in these respects, has exceeded that of any preceding year. By reference to the annual Catalogue, which lies upon your table, it will be seen that the entire number of students for the year, ending July last, is 114, of whom ten are members of the Theological Department. These facts will, doubtless, afford much gratification to the Convention, as well as ourselves; and when taken in connection with the infancy of the Institution, and numerous inconveniences of which you are well apprised already, are a source of encouragement to future exertions.

AGENTS.—As “the appointment of agents for all educational purposes” was left to the decision of this Board, it has been our uniform aim so to act, as to meet the approbation of your body. Above all things, it has been our constant care, not to incur liabilities which we might be unable to discharge. All are aware that the past year or two has not been a period very

propitious for benevolent enterprises, and the difficulty of procuring *suitable agents*, as well as that of obtaining funds, will account to the Convention for the little that has been done in this department of our operations, during the last year. Of the agents appointed by us at the commencement of the year, but one, brother Lindsley, actually entered the service of the Board. He labored faithfully three months, but was not successful to such a degree, as to warrant his continuance in the field. He was therefore recalled, and it has not been deemed advisable to make any further appointment. It is proper, however, to state, that bro. De Votie is, by appointment of the Board, General Agent of the Institution, though active service in that capacity is incompatible with his other duties. Experience inclines the Board to the opinion that it is not only expedient, but *highly important*, to have an active agent continually employed. By this means only can the subject be efficiently brought before the people, and a steady interest maintained in the prosperity of the Institution.

**BUILDING.**—The Convention was informed at its last session, that a contract had been made for the erection of a new edifice. Owing to the difficulty of collecting subscriptions, together with other circumstances beyond the control of the Board, the progress of the building has been very slow, although every effort has been made to accelerate it. The walls will be up in a few days, and the carpenter has every thing in readiness for putting on the roof, and enclosing the building. We expect, therefore, that several rooms in it will be completed early in January. No contracts have yet been made beyond the ability of the Board to meet.

The members of the Convention will have an opportunity to examine the building during their session. It will be seen that the dimensions of the original plan are somewhat reduced, as a matter of economy, but it will still furnish ample accommodations for a large number of students.

**CHARTER.**—In compliance with instructions of the Convention, the Board procured, during the last session of the Legislature of the State, the following amendment to their charter, to-wit :

“ An Act to amend an act to incorporate the Howard College, in Marion, Perry Co.

**SEC. 1.** *Be it enacted, &c.* That the term of office and the powers of the Board of Trustees, erected by the act of incorporation, of which this act is an amendment, shall expire and cease with the close of the next annual meeting of the Baptist State Convention of Alabama.

**SEC. 2.** That said Convention, at its next annual meeting, aforesaid, may proceed to elect a Board of fifteen Trustees for said College, to serve for six years, of which number one third shall go out of office biennially, and when they shall so go out of office, their vacancies shall be filled, and all further vacancies in said Board by the Convention.

**SEC. 3.** That the privileges, rights and powers of the said new Board of Trustees, and all subsequent Boards so elected, shall be the same, conferred by the said act of incorporation, on the original Board, and in all respects subject to the same rules and regulations by said act imposed, they shall control and manage the affairs of said College.

**SEC. 4.** That so much of the said act of incorporation, of which this is an amendment, as conflicts with the provisions of this act, be, and the same is hereby repealed.

Approved, January 21st, 1845.”

With this Report, therefore, our official duties, as a Board, terminate. And in conclusion, it may not be improper to add a few remarks, the sug-

gestions of past experience. It is now above four years since your Board entered upon its duties—with what success and faithfulness they have discharged them, is for others to judge. They engaged in the task with diffidence, and by appointment of the Convention. They have attempted to carry out the wishes of your body, to the extent of the means at their command. But it will be recollected that the past four years have been unparalleled for the monetary embarrassments of the State, and a more unpropitious period for commencing an undertaking like this, could not have been selected. But our motto has been onward, and we have accomplished something in the good cause. About thirty-five thousand dollars have been secured to the Institution, either by subscription or in ready money. This sum is now the property of the Convention. There is in active operation a Theological School, united with an efficient Literary Department, both of which are, in some degree, a credit to the denomination and to the State.

Again: much is also gained, in the fact, that the people, generally, are beginning to repose confidence in the enterprise and strength of a denomination, which is thus building up an Institution without the aid of the strong arm of Government. But to increase or even to secure their confidence, already gained, your Board is of opinion that strenuous efforts should be made, the ensuing year, to increase the facilities for instruction. The wants of the Theological Department already require this, and the expectations of the public will not be satisfied without it.

Finally, your Board see no reason to despair of ultimately reaching the height of their wishes. On the contrary, there is much to encourage—much that should animate them to go forward and cheerfully labor in the great and noble cause. Now is indeed the day of small things, but might have been smaller. We may not live till all is accomplished; the heads that planned may be reposing in the quiet of the grave the hands that gave the timely bounty, may be palsied in death, before all our hopes are realized, but the enterprise is such as Heaven is wont to smile upon; and under the good providence of God, if the Baptists of Alabama do but half their duty, it must, it will succeed, in spite of all untoward circumstances; in spite of poverty, indifference and neglect, it will survive all our hopes and all our fears.

With the firmest reliance, therefore, on the success of the Howard, your present Board respectfully yield into your hands the trust reposed in them.

J. H. De VOTIE, Pres. of the Board.

H. C. LEA, Sec'y.

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[B]

## Report of the Trustees of the Judson Female Institute.

*To the Alabama Baptist State Convention :*

DEAR BRETHREN.—It affords the Board of Trustees of the Judson Female Institute, much pleasure to be able to state to your body, that the Institute continues in a prosperous condition. There were in attendance, last year, one hundred and seventy-two students, and there have entered at the opening of the year, about one hundred and twenty.



We are happy to state, that according to the 'Treasurer's Report, the rent of the present year will free the Institution from debt, with the exception of \$60 20. The Convention can, therefore, safely make arrangements to send to the Institute, next year, at least five young ladies, free of charge.

E. D. KING, Pres. of Board.

[C]

### Report on Domestic Missions.

The committee to whom was referred the subject of Domestic Missions, having had the same under prayerful consideration, beg leave to submit the following Report:

Your committee, in entering upon the discharge of the duty assigned them, have been deeply pained in view of the almost hopeless moral and religious destitution which prevails in many and large sections of our beloved Alabama. The Macedonian cry is continually heard North, South, East and West, asking for a dispensation of the Bread of Life, and for the exercise of those spiritual agencies which alone can dissipate the moral gloom that overshadows these neglected regions. But while our hearts have burned within us, in holy desire to extend the friendly hand of aid and deliverance, we have been met in the outset, upon the very threshold of the noble enterprize of Domestic Missions, with the want of funds. But little has been sent up by the Churches and Associations for this sacred purpose; not enough to justify your committee in recommending to this body any specific action upon the subject, farther than that the Domestic Missionary fund of this body, not otherwise appropriated, be turned over to the Executive Board of Domestic Missions of the Southern Convention, to be disposed of by them in such way as their wisdom may suggest.

In view, however, of this great destitution, and the entire want of funds to prosecute the work of our Lord and Master, your committee would respectfully enquire of the Churches, Associations and private members, if they, in the spirit of the "widow and her mite," can conscientiously acquit themselves and say they have done what they could? Where is our sense of love and obligation to Him who gave His life a ransom for us,—who even now lives as our great High Priest, to intercede for us, and who is holding out to our enraptured vision, the glorious rewards of immortality?

Brethren, let us be up and doing, while it is called to-day, for the "night of death cometh wherein no man can work."

Are there not one hundred brethren in Alabama who, willing to "come up to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty," will subscribe one hundred dollars each, to constitute the Domestic Mission fund? Are there not one hundred who will subscribe fifty dollars? Are there not one hundred who will subscribe twenty-five dollars? Are there not one hundred who will subscribe ten, and one hundred five dollars? Surely there are. Brethren, let us arise and do.

Respectfully submitted,

A. TRAVIS, Chairman.

WM. N. WYATT *in account with Alabama Baptist State Convention.*

All of which is respectfully submitted,

WM. N. WYATT, Treasurer.

Nov. 24, 1845.

## [5]

## Report on Foreign Missions.

Your committee on Foreign Missions beg leave to report as follows :

They are happy to inform the Convention, that the efforts of the denomination in this department of Christian benevolence, have been attended with the most encouraging success. The labors of its Missionaries have been crowned with the blessings of Providence. At almost every station, the prospects are highly encouraging; at many, precious revivals have been enjoyed, and the cheering intelligence has come to us, that 3910 immortal spirits have been hopefully converted to God. And although many of our devoted Missionaries have fallen at their posts, and others seem reluctant to occupy their places, yet the number and efficiency of the native preachers have greatly increased, and we can truly say, the prospect of seeing the Heathen given to Christ for his inheritance, was never brighter than at present.

Your committee are rejoiced to perceive, that the Churches of the South and West are becoming more alive to the importance of the Foreign Mission enterprise, and more readily respond to its demands on their liberality. As the recent decisions of the Boston Board render it impossible for the South to act in conjunction with the North, it becomes doubly important, that this species of liberality be carefully fostered. It is to be hoped, there-

fore, that Ministers of the Gospel and members of the Churches will consider their increased individual responsibility.

The unseen hand of God has opened to us a wide and inviting field for Missionary labor to China. Several of the Missionaries who are laboring there are Southern men, and there are many indications of Providence which point us to China, as the field of our labor. Your committee would therefore recommend to this body, to make an earnest call upon the Churches of Alabama for the means of supporting at least one Missionary in China.

The Indians on our Western frontier have strong claims upon the sympathies, prayers and active benevolence of the denomination. It would be well for the Convention to recommend the objects of the Indian Mission Association to the serious consideration of our Churches. We are gratified to learn, that the efforts of this Association have received the blessing of God. Many have been brought to the light of the Gospel, and are rejoicing in the hope of eternal life.

In concluding their Report, your committee would offer for the adoption of this body the following resolutions:

*Resolved*, That the providence of God has clearly indicated it to be the duty of Southern Baptists to send the Gospel to the Indians of America, and to the millions of China.

*Resolved*, That the pastors of our Churches, and the brethren generally, be earnestly requested, to use every effort in their power to enable this Convention to take active measures to carry out the foregoing resolution.

Respectfully submitted,

H. TALBIRD, Chairman.

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[F]

## Report on Periodicals.

The committee on Periodicals beg leave to submit the following Report:

It is the firm conviction of your committee, as it certainly must be that of every reflecting christian and philanthropist, that the *wide diffusion of correct religious intelligence*, is of vital importance—may, is indispensable, to the harmony and prosperity of the Church, and to the success of the Gospel in the world.

“Ignorance is the mother of superstition,”—the strong shackle that binds the heart of man to earth—the fell destroyer of both soul and body. Let these be broken off—let the darkness be dissipated from the mind—let the soul be lifted out of the dust, elevated, enlarged, and strengthened by pouring in upon it weekly, a flood of light in regard to man's true moral character and condition—a future state of existence, of rewards and punishments, the plan of redemption, and in relation to all the benevolent and religious operations of the day, and the Gospel would have free access “would run and be glorified.”

For the diffusion of light and knowledge in our country, there are in different parts of our Union, many excellent religious and scientific papers and periodicals. None of these, however, meet, nor can they do so, entirely, and satisfactorily, the wants and wishes of the Baptist denomination in

our own State. To effect this, to promote most effectually and extensively the interests of our denomination, at least in Alabama, we regard the support of a good religious Baptist journal, in our midst, indispensable. Such a paper now exists, viz: the ALABAMA BAPTIST, which we are gratified to know, and to be able to state, has exerted a wide, and most beneficial influence upon the interests of Zion in the South.

The Alabama Baptist is now edited by an "*Association of Brethren*," and the proprietors are determined to spare no pains in rendering it worthy of the confidence and support of the entire denomination in the State.

The proprietors have purchased a building in which to publish the paper; a new press, type, and every thing connected with such an establishment, and design having the office *exclusively Baptist*.

In view of these considerations, the committee beg leave to present the following resolutions:

1. *Resolved*, That this Convention recommend the Alabama Baptist to the patronage of the denomination throughout the State.
2. That our brethren generally, be requested to exert themselves to increase its circulation.
3. That our ministering brethren be affectionately requested to make it the organ of their public communications.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN C. JONES, Chairman.

[G]

## Report of the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors beg leave to Report—That agreeably to the order of last Convention, the *Resolutions* were forwarded to several bodies; Foreign Mission Board, the American and Foreign Bible Society, the Home Mission, and Publication Societies. From the last two we have had no response.

A letter was received from the American and Foreign Bible Society, which on examination, was not regarded as satisfactory. Whereupon, another was written to the Society, which was answered, and on examining the same, the following resolution was adopted:

*Resolved*, That the statement received from the American and Foreign Bible Society is entirely satisfactory, and that the funds in hand for that Society, be transmitted to the Alabama Baptist Bible Society.

A letter was received from the Board of Foreign Missions, containing their answer to our resolutions. Whereupon, it was agreed, in conformity with the suggestion of the Virginia General Association, that it would be expedient to hold a Southern Convention. Delegates were appointed to attend the meeting in Augusta on May 8th; which meeting resulted in the formation of the Southern Baptist Convention.

All which is respectfully submitted,

JESSE HARTWELL, Pres't.



## Report on Sabbath Schools.

The committee to whom was referred the subject of Sabbath Schools, beg leave to Report :

That they have had the subject under consideration, and from the sources of information before them, they rejoice to believe that there is felt an increasing interest in many parts of our State upon this important subject. Sabbath Schools for the religious training of the young exist in most or all of our cities and villages : and are being established in the country, where the population is sufficiently large to warrant it ; and the happy effects of this institution have already been seen and felt in our Churches, and by the community at large.

The recent precious revivals of Religion in many parts of State have demonstrated the importance and utility of Sabbath Schools—in the fact that a majority of those who have professed a change of heart, and been added to the Churches, were from among the young—and many of them had enjoyed the advantages of Sabbath School instruction. In conclusion, your committee would offer the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That this Convention regard well conducted Sabbath Schools as one of the primary means, under God, of giving stability and perpetuity to both our religious and civil institutions; and that we earnestly recommend to the churches and ministers of our denomination throughout the State, that they continue their efforts for the promotion of this good work, which has received and continues to receive the approbation of Heaven ; that they endeavor to establish Schools in any section of the country, to supply them with Bibles, Testaments, Tracts, and such other books as may be deemed necessary to instruct the rising generation in our State in the way of life and salvation.

Respectfully submitted,

A. T. M. HANDY, Chairman.

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[I]

## Reports on Documents.

The committee on Letters beg leave to Report—That after due examination of the documents referred to them, they find nothing to communicate but a request, contained in the letter from the Georgia Baptist State Convention, that the Baptists of this State support the Theological Department of the Mercer University in Georgia. At the desire of the said Convention, your committee held a conference with the delegate from that body. As there is a Baptist College in this State, one department of which was established for the express purpose of educating young men for the ministry, your committee recommend to this Convention to take no action upon the above subject.

All which is respectfully submitted.

I. LYON, Chairman.

The Committee on Finance beg leave to report that they have received the following sums :

|   | Howard College. | Creek Indians. | General Purposes. | American & Foreign Bible Society. | Colored People. | Assam Mission. | Indian Missions. | Foreign Missions. | Domestic Missions. | Beneficiary of Howard College. |  |
|---|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Total, ...  | \$25 00         | 5 00           |                   |                                   |                 |                |                  |                   |                    |                                |  |
| Shiloh Church, .....  |                 |                |                   |                                   |                 |                |                  | 20 00             | 6 00               |                                |  |
| Canaan Association, .....   |                 |                |                   |                                   |                 |                |                  | 20 00             | 6 00               |                                |  |
| Benton Church, .....  |                 |                |                   |                                   |                 |                |                  | 14 00             | 12 00              |                                |  |
| Rock West Church, .....   |                 |                |                   |                                   |                 |                |                  | 1 50              |                    |                                |  |
| Montgomery Church, .....  |                 |                |                   |                                   |                 |                |                  |                   |                    |                                |  |
| Bethlehem Association, .....                                      |                 |                |                   |                                   |                 |                |                  |                   |                    |                                |  |
| Liberty Church, .....   |                 |                |                   |                                   |                 |                |                  |                   | 10 40              |                                |  |
| Carrollville Benevolent Sewing Society, .....                     |                 |                |                   |                                   |                 |                |                  |                   |                    |                                |  |
| Centre Ridge Church, .....  |                 |                |                   |                                   |                 |                |                  | 10 00             |                    |                                |  |
| Elmwood Church, .....   |                 |                |                   |                                   |                 |                |                  |                   |                    |                                |  |
| Oakmulgee Church, .....   |                 |                |                   |                                   |                 |                |                  |                   |                    |                                |  |
| Shady Grove Congregation, .....                                   |                 |                |                   |                                   |                 |                |                  |                   |                    |                                |  |
| Salem Church, .....   |                 |                |                   |                                   |                 |                |                  | 8 50              | 97 35              |                                |  |
| Liberty Association, .....  |                 |                |                   |                                   |                 |                |                  | 43 35             | 5 00               |                                |  |
| Coltrine Benevolent Sewing Society, .....                         |                 |                |                   |                                   |                 |                |                  | 6 00              | 11 00              |                                |  |
| Union Association, .....  |                 |                |                   |                                   |                 |                |                  |                   | 33 00              |                                |  |
| Grant's Creek Missionary Society, .....                           |                 |                |                   |                                   |                 |                |                  | 53 40             | 12 00              |                                |  |
| Tuskaloosa Association, .....                                     |                 |                |                   |                                   |                 |                |                  | 31 72             |                    |                                |  |
| Mt. Pleasant Church, .....  |                 |                |                   |                                   |                 |                |                  |                   |                    |                                |  |
| Salem Association, .....  |                 |                |                   |                                   |                 |                |                  | 30 00             |                    |                                |  |
| County Line Church and Congregation, .....                        |                 |                |                   |                                   |                 |                |                  |                   |                    |                                |  |
| Marion Female Benevolent Society, .....                           |                 |                |                   |                                   |                 |                |                  |                   |                    |                                |  |
| Alabama Association, .....  |                 |                |                   |                                   |                 |                |                  | 5 00              |                    |                                |  |
| Chawaha Association, (cash and pledges), .....                    |                 |                |                   |                                   |                 |                |                  |                   | 157 75             |                                |  |
| Siloam Church, .....  |                 |                |                   |                                   |                 |                |                  | 16 66             | 16 67              |                                |  |
| Monthly Concert for prayer in Siloam Church, .....                |                 |                |                   |                                   |                 |                |                  | 33 00             |                    |                                |  |
| Bethel Association, .....   |                 |                |                   |                                   |                 |                |                  | 5 00              |                    |                                |  |
| Spring Hill Church, .....   |                 |                |                   |                                   |                 |                |                  |                   |                    |                                |  |
| Collection on Sabbath in Marion, .....                            |                 |                |                   |                                   |                 |                |                  |                   |                    |                                |  |
| Balance in the hands of the Treasurer from last year, .....       |                 |                |                   |                                   |                 |                |                  |                   |                    |                                |  |
| Balance due from Gainesville Church, .....                        |                 |                |                   |                                   |                 |                |                  |                   |                    |                                |  |
| Collected by D. Gordon, .....                                     |                 |                |                   |                                   |                 |                |                  |                   |                    |                                |  |
| Donation by P. T. Miller, .....                                   |                 |                |                   |                                   |                 |                |                  |                   |                    |                                |  |
| Donation by Mrs. J. A. Barron, .....                              |                 |                |                   |                                   |                 |                |                  |                   |                    |                                |  |
| Missionary Society of the Judson Female Institute, .....          |                 |                |                   |                                   |                 |                |                  |                   |                    |                                |  |
| Donation from W. Jenkins, sen. for Miss. & Bibles in China, ..... |                 |                |                   |                                   |                 |                |                  |                   |                    |                                |  |
|   | \$1,602 19      | \$1 20         | \$149 25          | \$14 00                           | \$21 50         | \$0 00         | \$26 00          | \$99 44           | \$378 17           | \$679 86                       |  |

The above amount of \$1,602 19, has been placed in the hands of the Treasurer. All which is respectfully submitted.

WM. B. HARALSON, Chr'n.

\*The County Line Church appropriated \$8 00 for the benefit of the colored population, if a mission was established among them; otherwise it was to go to the beneficiaries of Howard College.

The committee would call attention to the fact, that a part of the money sent up by the Association was contributed by a colored brother for the education of the Ministry.

## Report on Education.

The documents placed in the hands of the Committee on Education, have been examined, from which the following Report is made :

It is with much pleasure we notice the flourishing condition of the "Judson Institute." We feel gratified to see, from the report of the Board of Trustees, that this institution will soon be entirely free from debt. From their report, and that of the committee appointed at the last session of your body, to examine into the fiscal concerns of the Judson, it appears that on the first of September, 1846, the institution will owe only about sixty dollars. After which period there will be a large surplus annually coming in to the Convention. Your committee would recommend the propriety of devoting this surplus fund, after making necessary appropriations for increasing the apparatus, library, &c., and for the necessary repairs of the building, to the education of daughters of deceased and indigent Baptist ministers; and that the Trustees be requested to inquire for, and seek after such pupils, and at the opening of the school, about the first of October, 1846, they place into the institution so many of such pupils as without bringing the institution in debt, can be educated from said funds.

The committee most heartily commend the zeal and prudence which have characterized the Trustees of this institution, in building up and sustaining the same, by which they have merited the approbation of the Baptist denomination. It is with pleasure, also, that we have noticed the manner in which the able professors and competent teachers devote themselves to the instruction of those committed to their charge. Not only are the young ladies taught in the solid and ornamental branches of learning, but the Bible, the Holy Word of God, is used as one of the text books, and its claims are constantly urged upon the pupils of the institution. The pupils also enjoy the benefit of Sabbath School instruction. We, therefore most cordially recommend it to the patronage of the public generally.

From the report of the Board of Trustees of the Howard College, we are gratified to learn that this institution is increasing in interest, and in the confidence of the public. We find in the catalogue of students for the last session, they number one hundred and fourteen, ten of whom were in the theological department. When we take into consideration the infancy of the institution, the loss of its buildings by fire, and other inconveniences under which it has labored, this is certainly a source of encouragement, and calls for renewed exertions.

The walls of a large and commodious brick building are now nearly completed, and early in the next year it will be ready to be occupied. The Trustees are ready to meet the payments for the erection of this building, and all of their contracts, for which we commend them, and trust the future Board may proceed with the same caution, and not go in debt beyond their means.

If it is the wisdom of the Convention to make exertions, at this time, for the endowment of a Literary Professorship, we recommend that an agent be ap-

pointed and instructed to make collections for the same. If this literary professorship is thus endowed, we recommend that said professor be required to devote a portion of his time to instructing his pupils in the Science of Agricultural Chemistry.

The committee approve of the zealous efforts that have been used by the Board of Trustees of the Howard, in going forward and persevering amidst so many unfavorable circumstances, and we recommend the Convention to adopt the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Convention are due the Board of Trustees of the Howard College, and they are hereby most cordially tendered to them for the able manner in which they have conducted the affairs of this institution in its infancy, and during the many trying circumstances through which it has passed.

The committee notice that the recommendation of the last committee on Education has been acted upon, and an "Alabama Baptist State Education Society" has been formed; but of the proceedings of that Society your committee is not informed. We recommend that vigorous efforts be made by it for carrying out the objects for which it was created.

All which is respectfully submitted. J. C. FOSTER, Chairman.

[L]

## Report on Temperance.

The committee on Temperance, Report—That they feel embarrassed on entering upon the duty assigned them owing to the sparseness of statistical and other documentary information accessible to them.

So far as they have been able to procure information from individuals, and from their personal observation, they have come to the conclusion, that in the aggregate in the State, the cause has waned during our Conventional year.

It is however, gratifying to know, that while this mortifying and painful conviction exists, yet in many sections of our State, the friends of the cause are active, and its progress onward; exerting a healthful influence upon the moral condition of the community; redeeming many from degradation and a downward course to ruin; gladdening many a saddened hearted wife, mother, sister, daughter, whose friends have been thus redeemed.

But we cannot release ourselves from an obligation, painful as we feel it to be, to state, that in many other parts of our State, this cause of humanity and of God, should have been suffered to retrograde, through the apathy of its professed but recreant friends.

In conclusion, your committee recommend the adoption of the resolution herewith submitted.

Respectfully, PLATT STOUT, Chairman.

*Resolved*, That this Convention view with painful interest the indifference but too apparent, of many of the avowed friends of the Temperance cause in our State, and affectionately urge our brethren and friends, by all the high and holy considerations which the subject presents, that they put forth immediate action and persevering efforts to extend and confirm the principles and practice of abstinence from the use of intoxicating beverages.



## Report on the state of Religion.

The committee on the state of Religion, beg leave to Report—That in some parts of the State, extensive revivals have recently been experienced. Large accessions have been made to a few of our churches, especially in the middle and southern parts of the State. Most of the Associations within our knowledge, have missionaries in the field, whose labors have been greatly blessed during the past year. There are other portions of the State, however, where coldness and apathy exist to an alarming extent, and great destitution in regard to the ministry of the Word. Your committee are of opinion, that one of the greatest causes of the latter state of things is, a *secularized ministry*. Our churches cannot expect that degree of prosperity which is desirable, whilst they withhold from God, that which he claims for those whom he hath called to the exclusive work of preaching the Gospel. This great duty can no more be neglected with impunity, than any other positive injunction of God's Word. It is utterly impossible for us to desire, or even pray for, a general refreshing from the presence of God, whilst we are robbing him of tithes and offerings. If our churches, therefore, desire to see the pleasure of the Lord prospering in their hands, let them unloose the hands of their pastors, so that they may be able to obey the Divine injunctions—to give themselves wholly to the work, that their profiting may appear unto all.

From the last information we have been able to procure, there have been between three and four thousand additions to the churches, by baptism, within the State, during the past year.

Your committee cannot close their report without expressing their profound gratitude to God, for the increasing solicitude which our churches and ministry are manifesting in regard to our colored population. The pastors of most of the churches of which we have a direct knowledge, devote a portion of their Sabbath labors exclusively to their spiritual instruction. The blessing of God has followed their labors too, in almost every instance. The readiness which they manifest to receive such instruction, imposes an infinite obligation upon pastors and churches, to see that it be supplied them. All which is respectfully submitted.

SAMUEL HENDERSON, Chairman.

## Report on Northern Relations.

The committee on Northern Relations, beg leave to Report—That in view of the unexpected, improper and unwarranted action of the Baptist Board for Foreign Missions, at Boston, and of the Home Mission Society, at Providence, at its last meeting, they fully coincide with the great mass of their brethren in the propriety of an organization separate from their Northern brethren, for all the future Missionary operations of Southern Baptists.

Your committee further express the high gratification they feel, at the manly, dignified, and christian-like deportment, of the members of the late Baptist Convention, held at Augusta, Georgia. Cordially approving the course adopted by that Convention, the committee recommend to this body to appoint delegates to the next meeting of the Southern Convention, to be held at Richmond, Va., in June, 1846.

Your committee feel that they would fail to discharge an important duty, should they omit to remind their brethren, that the painful separation in our denomination

opens before Southern Baptists a new and more extensive field for the exercise of their charity and christian philanthropy. We have considerations of the most weighty character—the eternal interests of millions of the human family in our own and foreign lands, stimulating us to carry out with efficiency and zeal, the objects of our Southern organization. Let each one but do his duty, and the God of Heaven will crown our efforts with success.

In conclusion, your committee submit the following resolutions:

1. *Resolved*, That the Baptist State Convention of Alabama, hereby dissolves all connection with the Triennial Convention, and the American Baptist Home Missionary Society.
2. *Resolved*, That we cordially invite the Officers and Agents of the Southern Baptist Convention, to visit our State; and we pledge ourselves to afford them any aid in our power, to further the grand undertaking in which they are engaged.

All which is respectfully submitted,

H. TALBIRD, Chairman.

## CONSTITUTION.

Article 1. This body shall be known by the name of "The Baptist State Convention of Alabama;" and shall be composed of delegates from Baptist Associations and Churches; and from Missionary or other Benevolent Societies, composed of members of Baptist Churches, in good standing.

Art. 2. The officers of the Convention shall be a President, first and second Vice Presidents, Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary and a Treasurer; together with a Board of Directors, as hereinafter named, who shall be elected at each annual meeting from its own body, and who shall hold their offices until their successors are elected.

Art. 3. The President, or in case of his absence, one of the Vice Presidents, in their order, shall preside at all deliberations of the Convention, and discharge the duties usually imposed upon an executive officer of deliberative bodies.

Art. 4. The Recording Secretary shall keep a fair record of the proceedings of the Convention in a well-bound book; and soon after the rising of each regular meeting of this body, shall attend to the printing and distribution of the Minutes of the same, of which he shall preserve a file; and for his services he may receive reasonable compensation.

Art. 5. The Corresponding Secretary, under the direction of the Convention, shall discharge the duties usually imposed upon that officer.

Art. 6. The Treasurer shall take charge of the funds of the Convention, and hold the same subject to the order of this body, or of the Board of Directors during the recess of the Convention, he having first given security for the faithful discharge of his duties, to be approved by the Board of Directors; and he shall make an annual report of all receipts and expenditures, which shall be audited and published with the Minutes.

Art. 7. The President, Vice Presidents, Secretaries, and the Treasurer, with nine other brethren, to be elected as hereinafter prescribed, shall compose the Board of Directors, five of whom, including the President, or one of the Vice Presidents, shall form a quorum authorized to transact any business of the Convention during the recess thereof, and shall report their proceedings at each annual meeting of the Convention.

Art. 8. The President shall have power to call a meeting of the Board whenever the exigency of circumstances may, in his judgment, require the same.

Art. 9. The business of this Convention shall be to encourage and promote, by all lawful means, the following objects, viz: Foreign and Domestic Missions; the education of such Ministers as may have been licensed by the Churches to which they may respectively belong; Bible Translation and Distribution; Sunday Schools, Religious Periodicals, Tract and Temperance Societies, as well as all other objects warranted by Christ in the Gospel: *Provided*, That such persons only as are in indigent circumstances, shall be received as beneficiaries, under the patronage of the Convention: *Provided further*, That all applicants for aid shall undergo an examination as to their hope in Christ, and call to the ministry, by the committee of examination, before they are named as beneficiaries.

Art. 10. The Convention shall have the supreme control of any Literary or Theological Institution, which has been, or may hereafter be originated in this body; and it shall choose for such institution a Board of fifteen Trustees, to serve for six years; of whom one third shall go out of office biennially, seven of whom shall form a quorum, authorized to transact business; and the said trustees shall, on all occasions, be subject to the control of the Convention, and make an annual report to this body on the state of such institution.

Art. 11. This Convention may receive funds from all such persons as may be disposed to aid in any of the benevolent purposes mentioned in the ninth Article, and it shall faithfully apply funds contributed to the objects which may be designated by the donors.

Art. 12. The Convention may employ agents, whose duty it shall be to make collections, obtain subscriptions from societies, solicit Churches and Associations to unite with the Convention, and to further all the objects of this body. All contingent expenses shall be proportionally taken from the several funds sent up annually to the Convention, when the general fund shall be insufficient for that purpose.

Art. 13. The Convention shall have power to send delegates to the General Convention of the Baptist Denomination in the United States, and to any other Assembly with which, in its wisdom it may wish to communicate.

Art. 14. The Convention shall hold its meetings at such time and place, as it shall from time to time appoint.

Art. 15. Any Church, Association or Society, as prescribed in the first Article, contributing any sum, through the Convention, to one or more of the objects specified in the ninth Article, may be represented in this body as follows: Each Association may have ten delegates, and each Church or Benevolent Society, five.

Art. 16. The provisions of this Constitution shall not prevent the Convention from voting a liberal donor, being a member of a Baptist Church in good standing, a Life Member of the Convention, whenever the same shall be deemed expedient.

Art. 17. The funds of this Convention shall be raised by voluntary contributions or donations, and not otherwise.

Art. 18. The Convention disclaims all right of exercising authority over any church or association, hereby acknowledging that every church is independent, and, within its own sphere, is accountable to no body of men on earth.

Art. 19. The above Constitution may be altered or amended, by the concurrence of three-fourths of the members present at any annual meeting, so as to preserve inviolate the eighteenth Article.

## By-Laws of the Baptist State Convention in Alabama.

1. At each meeting of the Convention, the President, or in his absence, one of the Vice Presidents shall take the chair, and shall call the members to order; shall preserve order and decorum, and shall decide questions of order, subject to an appeal to the Convention by any two members. He shall open and close the Convention by prayer to God, or call on some brother to perform this service. He shall appoint all committees, with the sanction of the Convention. He may speak in debate on any question, but not until he has given other members a fair opportunity to give their views, and appoint some other member to fill the chair.

2. The names of the members shall be called each day previous to proceeding to business.

3. Invitations shall be extended to Ministering brethren present, to a seat in the Convention.

4. The members shall observe that respect to the officers, and to each other, which becometh those who reverence the God whose they are, and whom they serve. When any member is about to speak in debate, or deliver any matter to the Convention, he shall rise from his seat, and respectfully address the President, and shall confine himself to the question under debate, and avoid personalities. No member shall speak more than twice to the same question, without leave; nor more than once, until every member choosing to speak, shall have spoken.

5. Whilst the President is putting any question, or addressing the Convention, none shall walk out of, nor across the house; nor when a member is speaking shall entertain private discourse, nor pass erect between him and the Chair.

6. When a motion is made and seconded, it shall be stated by the President, or being in writing, it shall be handed to the chair, and be read aloud by the Secretary, before debated.

7. After a motion is stated by the President, or read by the Secretary, it shall be deemed in possession of the Convention, but may be withdrawn at any time, by the mover, before a decision or amendment.

8. When a question is under debate, no motion shall be received but to adjourn, to lay on the table, to amend, or to postpone indefinitely; which several motions shall have precedence in the order in which they are arranged. But no motion or proposition on a subject different from that under consideration, shall be admitted under color of amendment.

9. When a motion has been once made and carried in the affirmative, or negative, it shall be in order for any member who voted in the majority to move for a reconsideration thereof on the same day.

10. When the reading of a paper is called for, and is objected to by any member, it shall be determined by a vote of the Convention.

11. No member shall absent himself from the service of the Convention, unless he have leave, or be sick and unable to attend.

12. All questions, except such as relate to the Constitution, shall be decided by a majority of votes.

13. Should the presiding officer fail to enforce the foregoing rules, he shall be deemed wanting in duty, and shall be liable to be reminded of the same, by any member present.



# MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA BAPTIST BIBLE SOCIETY.

MARION, ALA., SUNDAY, NOV. 23d, 7 o'clock, P. M., 1845.

1. Society met. Introductory sermon by the Rev. A. A. Connella. Remarks by the President, and by A. Travis, on the destitution of the Bible, in many parts of the State.

2. A collection was taken in aid of the objects of the Society, and the following individuals became members, on paying the usual contribution:

J. G. Collins, G. Rives, R. Wood, J. C. Jones, R. P. Lide, C. H. Cleveland, M. B. Clement, A. T. M. Handy, A. Travis, J. J. Sessions, S. Henderson, J. J. Bradford, J. Lyon, C. Grinnell, W. Hendrix, J. Hoskins, L. B. Lane, H. Talbird, J. Morris, A. A. Connella, J. Hartwell, S. Lindsley, J. W. Mundy, J. T. Barron, T. Chilton, J. H. DeVotie, S. S. Sherman, A. Van Hoose, A. D. Blackwood, A. J. Seals, — Hooper, B. Hodges, A. G. McCraw, J. G. Shorter, C. M. Cochran, W. N. Wyatt, J. R. Goree, P. Stont, D. P. Bestor, N. Smith, J. D. Moody, E. B. Woodfin. *Ladies*—Mrs. Rives, Mrs. Talbird, Mrs. Jewett, Mrs. Hartwell, Mrs. Sherman, Miss E. Woodfin.

MONDAY, 24th, 8 o'clock, P. M.

Met pursuant to adjournment.

1. A letter from Grant's Creek Bible Society was read, delegating John C. Foster, Allen Woolley and John L. S. Foster, and enclosing a contribution of \$80 35.

2. Report of the Board of Managers read and adopted.

3. The following resolution was offered by J. G. Shorter:

*Resolved*, That we have yet confidence in the operations of the American and Foreign Bible Society—and finding no just cause to sever this, the last link that binds us in benevolent enterprise with our northern brethren, that we continue, for the present, our co-operation with them in the great effort to distribute the Bible, in its original purity, among the nations of the earth.

After an animated discussion, in which the relations of this Society to the parent institution were thoroughly canvassed, the above resolution was *unanimously* adopted.

Adjourned to meet at call of the President.

TUESDAY, 7 o'clock, P. M.

1. Society met. Treasurer's Report read and referred to the auditing committee.

2. A. Travis appointed to preach the next annual sermon; H. Talbird, alternate.

3. *Resolved*. That the Board of Managers be instructed to appoint an agent, if practicable, for the ensuing year.

4. *Resolved*, That all monies in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, be forwarded to the Treasurer of the American and Foreign Bible Society, with the request that the same be sent directly to China, to aid in circulating the Holy Scripture in that empire.

Adjourned, to meet in Marion, during the next session of the Baptist State Convention.

J. H. DE VOTIE, *President*.

S. S. SHERMAN, *Secretary*.

## OFFICERS:

J. H. DE VOTIE, *President*—C. M. CLEVELAND, D. GORDON, *Vice Presidents*.

S. LINDSLEY, *Treasurer*—S. S. SHERMAN, *Secretary*.

*Managers*—L. B. LANE, E. KING, L. Y. TARRANT, D. P. BESTOR, J. C. JONES, M. P. JEWETT, K. HAWTHORNE.

## Report of the Board of Managers.

The Board of Managers of the Alabama B. B. Society present the following report :

The peculiar circumstances which have lately arisen, affecting the benevolent operations of our denomination, have rendered the past year one of unusual interest to the friends of the Bible cause, and have required of your Board much circumspection. While, on the one hand, they have endeavored to avoid the appearance of seeking to promote discord and disunion, on the other, they have felt that the respect due to candor and truth, and to this Society, required of the parent Society, at this particular juncture, an explicit reply to the queries proposed by the last Convention. For this reason, the Board declined forwarding the monies on hand, until such answer was given. The following extract from the reply of the Board of the American and Foreign Bible Society, will show the grounds on which were based the subsequent proceedings of your Board, to wit :

"It is the determined purpose of the Board of Managers of the Amer. and For. Bible Soc. to keep to the original platform; and adhering rigidly to the exclusive object aimed at and defined in the second Article of our Constitution, we shall most cordially welcome all who approve the fundamental principle of our organization, as coadjutors, on terms of perfect equality. In selecting Managers, to fill vacancies, and agents, preference is always given to those most esteemed and confided in by our supporters, in the region where they reside, or we expect to operate. It has also been our invariable practice, wherever we have State Auxiliary Societies, as is the case in most of the Southern States, to devolve the duty of selecting their own soliciting agents, on them. They also appropriate, or designate, the funds which they forward to our treasury, which designation we always adhere to with scrupulous fidelity."

This reply, both the Executive Board of the Convention, and the Board of Managers of this Society, regarded as fully satisfactory. Further evidence of its sincerity is furnished by the fact that the Northern Board has on former occasions, as well as on the present, requested us to appoint agents for this State, and has put into the hands of agents so appointed, a large amount of subscription, with the request that the same might be collected and appropriated by us.

With these facts before them, your Board felt authorised to adopt the following resolutions, to wit :

*Resolved*, That this Board is fully satisfied with the statement of the Board of the Am. and For. Bible Soc. and that our confidence in said Board is still unimpaired.

*Resolved*, That all monies now in the treasury be forwarded immediately to the treasurer of the Am. and For. Bible Soc. with the request that the same may be sent directly to China, there to aid in the circulation of the Holy Scriptures.

The amount thus forwarded, will appear in the treasurer's report. The Board has since learned that the above request was literally complied with. With respect to agencies, the Board has not felt authorized to make any appointment, under existing circumstances. It cannot be denied, that there exists in the south, (and naturally enough too,) a great degree of distrust in all northern societies. This renders it extremely difficult to raise funds to be disbursed through their agency. After mature reflection, it has been thought advisable to refer the whole matter to your body. With you, therefore, it remains to say, whether this society shall continue auxiliary to the Amer. and For. Bible Society, or shall act as a separate and independent organization. Most of the Southern States which have acted on this subject, have, we believe, determined to make no change.

There is also another subject which this Board begs leave to bring to the notice of the society. It is the destitution which prevails at home. While we have no wish to curtail operations abroad, we feel that duty also requires of this society, more vigorous efforts to supply the destitute of our own State. Something has been attempted, though on a small scale, during the last year, but our efforts have done little else than partially reveal the lamentable destitution which prevails, even in the most favored portions of Alabama.

The following extract of a letter from an agent employed in Perry county, is, it is believed, but too faithful a picture of the whole State. "I have supplied," says he, "about twenty-five destitute families within a few miles of my residence. The heads of several of these families are members of the Baptist church. One man to whom I gave the Bible could not read, neither could any one of his family. But he said he wanted a Bible, that he might get his friends to read to him, when they called to see him. He also expressed a determination to learn to read, in order that he might peruse the word of God for himself. Many families in this vicinity are still destitute—waiting to get the large Bible. Many also inquire for the large Testament. An active agent should be employed immediately—nay, one cannot do the tenth part of what is to be done."

Will not the society reflect on this subject, and while sending the Word of Life to distant nations, not forget our own countrymen, our friends, our neighbors?

J. H. DE VOTIE, Pres't.

S. S. SHERMAN, Secretary.

*Alabama Baptist Bible Society in account with S. Lindsley, Treasurer.*

| CASH RECEIVED. |                                       | CASH DISBURSED. |  |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| 1845.          |                                       | 1845:           |  |
| Jan. 25,       | J. B. Ashford,.....\$5 00             | Jan'y 2,        | For hauling two boxes of Bi-             |
| Feb. 15,       | Prof. M. P. Jewett, .....50 00        |                 | bles from Cahawba,.....\$5 00            |
| June 30,       | Wm. Jenkins Sen.,.....200 00          | " "             | Remitted to the A. & F. B. S. 202 02     |
| " "            | Ash Creek Ch, for Bibles, ....11 94   | July 15,        | Paid over, by Prof. M. P. Jew-           |
| " "            | Uniontown do.,...do.,.....13 00       |                 | itt, to Dr. R. Babcock,.....50 00        |
| " "            | Collection at Hopewell Ch.,...10 50   | Apr. 12,        | Remitted to the A. & F. B. S. 100 00     |
| " "            | Do, Tuscaloosa Ch.,...8 00            |                 | Exchange on same, .....5 00              |
| " "            | Union Association,.....3 65           | June 30,        | Printing Minutes,.....20 00              |
| July 28,       | David Cole, (McC. sub.),.....40 00    | July 1,         | Remitted to the A. & F. B. S. 200 00     |
| Aug. 1,        | Bro. Haggard, .....1 45               |                 | Discount on same, .....8 00              |
| Sept. 23,      | Rev. Thomas Chilton, .....5 00        | Sept. 22,       | Dis. at 4 pr ct. on \$5 Ala. money, ..20 |
| " "            | Sale of Bibles, .....13 50            | " 23,           | Remitted to Ira M. Allen, ass't          |
| Nov. 23,       | From sundry persons, to consti-       |                 | Treas'r of the A. & F. B. S.             |
|                | tute them members of this             |                 | for the purchase of Bibles,              |
|                | Society,.....29 00                    |                 | &c. ....80 00                            |
| " "            | Hon J. G. Shorter, on subscrip-       |                 |  |
|                | tion to the A. & F. B. S. ob-         |                 |  |
|                | tained by Dr. W. B. Johnson, 25 00    |                 |  |
| " "            | Contribution by same, .....6 00       |                 |  |
|                | Dr. C. Battle, on sub. to the A.      |                 |  |
|                | & F. B. S. obtained by Dr.            |                 |  |
| " "            | W. B. Johnson,.....50 00              |                 |  |
| " "            | Charles Grennel, .....6 00            |                 |  |
| " "            | J. W. Mundy,.....11 00                |                 |  |
| " "            | C. H. Cleveland,.....11 00            |                 |  |
| " "            | Dr. L. B. Lane,.....11 00             |                 |  |
| " "            | Rev. Samuel Henderson,.....6 00       |                 |  |
| " "            | W. H. Thornton, .....3 33             |                 |  |
| " "            | R. P. Lide, .....6 00                 |                 |  |
| " "            | Fuller & Hyatt,.....5 00              |                 |  |
| " "            | Dr. S. Lyon, .....6 00                |                 |  |
| " "            | C. M. Cochran,.....5 00               |                 |  |
| " "            | Rev. Henry Talbird,.....5 00          |                 |  |
| " "            | Rev. J. G. McCraw,.....5 00           |                 |  |
| " "            | John R. Goree,.....5 00               |                 |  |
| " "            | A Friend, .....5 00                   |                 |  |
| " "            | Rev. J. H. De Votie,.....10 00        |                 |  |
| " "            | Rev. Thomas Chilton, .....10 00       |                 |  |
| " "            | J. Thomas Barron,.....2 00            |                 |  |
| " "            | Rev. B. R. W. McIver,.....2 00        |                 |  |
| " 25,          | Grant's Creek Ch. Bible Soc'y, 80 35  |                 |  |
|                | \$666 72                              |                 |  |
|                | Cash in hand, Nov. 18, 1844, 364 43   |                 |  |
|                | Total amount,.....\$1,031 15          |                 |  |
|                | Disbursed, .....670 22                |                 |  |
|                | Bal. in hand, Nov. 25, 1845, \$360 93 |                 |  |
|                |                                       |                 | Total amount disbursed, ...\$670 22      |

SOLON LINDSLEY, Treasurer.

We certify that we have examined the above accounts, and find them correct.

J. C. FOSTER,  
PLATT STOUT, } Auditing Committee.  
H. TALBIRD.













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